

342 glass, tambours (extra doors with an air lock in between) and savallakas
 354 (mounds of earth around the house). A common practice is to ice over the
 house for the winter with a mixture of snow and water. Double ceilings,
 double floors, horizontal flues and shutters are still used, although rather
 rarely. The brick or tile stove is sometimes combined with the traditional
 Yakut fireplace. In many houses there is an extra iron stove in addition
 to the brick stove.

35 The internal appearance of dwellings has also changed. The furniture
 known before to the Yakuts (tables, stools and benches) has become less
 massive and more varied. We now find bookshelves, chairs, small dress-
 ing-tables and mirrors. Factory-made crockery and utensils are encoun-
 tered in every home. Clocks (including alarm clocks), writing materials,
 and books have become common, and phonographs are also sometimes
 found. In most houses the walls are adorned with posters, pictures of Com-
 munist Party leaders, photographs, bookshelves, and over the bed there is
 usually a rug made of skin from the reindeer's head, bead-embroidered
 saddlecloths, or else the walls are covered with cloth. The windows have
 curtains.

177
 377 Tremendous changes have taken place in the way of life of the Yakuts.
 207 Many collective farms now have electricity and radio. Clean clothes,
 515 hot baths, and attention to their personal appearance are typical of most of
 547 the collective-farm members. There has been a change in interests, habits
 and way of life. The outlook of the population has broadened. Books can
 now be found in every house. In the settlements people enjoy movies, and
 attend lectures and discussions in the reading rooms. Young people take
 part in ski-races, chess and other sporting events. Amateur song and dance
 groups in the clubs are usually of interest to the whole settlement. The
 families are no longer isolated and no longer keep to themselves.

524 A typical innovation for city children is toys, such as figures of horses
 and cows, rubber dolls, rattles, clockwork trucks, and so on. In addition to
 these, we commonly find delicately carved wooden animals and tiny bows
 and arrows. In the schools and boarding facilities children amuse them-
 selves with the most popular table games. In the spring and summer they
 play various games, including hide-and-seek and blind man's-buff.

262 A great deal has changed in the Yakut diet, as well.

It should be remembered that before the Revolution Yakutiya was a coun-
 try of chronic famine. Most of the Yakut population suffered from starva-
 tion every year, particularly at the end of the winter and in spring. Bread
 has now become a normal food not only in the southern but also in the north-
 ern areas. Groats and macaroni are now part of the staple diet. The con-
 sumption of vegetables and potatoes has also considerably increased.

242 In many regions the collective farms grow cucumbers, radishes, cab-
 443 bages, onions and beets. Vegetables are imported in the dehydrated form.
 262 Everywhere the population is amply provided with tea, sugar, and tobacco.
 There are bakeries at trading points in most settlements. Meat and fish
 are consumed by the Yakuts in large quantities, particularly in the northern
 regions, where they are the staple diet. In the southern regions an impor-
 262 tant part of the diet is dairy products. On account of the overall improve-
 177 ment in the living standards of the people, sapwood is no longer consumed
 178 as food. Nor do they eat pickled fish any more. Local traditions are still
 retained in the cooking of dairy products, meat and fish. In the northern
 regions meat is commonly undercooked. Milk is made into some curious
 dishes such as suorat, khayakh, chokkhoon, ~~subyap~~ and so forth. In a number
 of regions reindeer gristle is still eaten in the raw state as a delicacy, and
 so are the liver and bone marrow of this animal. Many families eat freshly